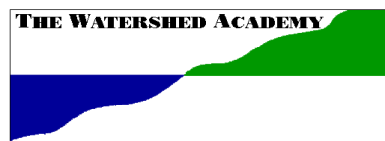
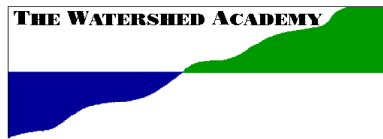




# Information Management for the Watershed Approach in the Pacific Northwest







• *Information Transfer Series, No. 6* •

# **Information Management for the Watershed Approach in the Pacific Northwest**

**Assessment and Watershed Protection Division,  
Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds (4503F)**

*and*

**Permits Division,  
Office of Wastewater Management (4203)**

**Office of Water  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20460**



# FOREWORD

The watershed approach has changed the way that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other federal, tribal and state agencies formerly managed water resources programs. We now generally recognize that the critical environmental issues facing society are so intertwined that a comprehensive, ecosystem-based and community-based approach is needed. We also recognize that solving environmental problems depends increasingly on local governments and local citizens. Thus, the need to integrate across traditional water program areas (e.g., flood control, wastewater treatment, nonpoint source pollution control) and to cooperate across levels of government (federal, state, tribal, local) and across public and private sectors is leading toward a watershed approach.

Public and private organizations, academic institutions, and citizens and their governments in thousands of communities across the nation are forming partnerships and learning new ways to manage their watersheds together. These groups seek guidance and examples of watershed approach success stories after which to model their own activities. The EPA Office of Water established the Watershed Academy to help address these needs by providing training for watershed managers based on local, state, tribal, and federal experiences in implementing watershed approaches throughout the past decade.

The Watershed Academy provides technical watershed information and outreach through live training courses, the Internet, and published documents. The Academy offers live training courses on the basics of watershed management and maintains a training catalogue concerning where to obtain more advanced training. An Internet distance learning program called Academy 2000 is being developed to help serve the training needs of those who cannot attend the live courses. The Watershed Academy also provides watershed approach reference materials, such as this document, through the Watershed Academy Information Transfer Series.

This document, number 6 in the Series, centers on a series of interviews with leaders and key participants in the statewide watershed approach activities in the State of Washington. The document reviews Washington's statewide watershed activities in case study fashion. Following this review, the document describes how a watershed information clearinghouse can serve multiple planning, information management and communication roles for watershed groups.

The Information Transfer Series titles include:

- no. 1: **Watershed protection: a project focus** (EPA841-R-95-003)*
- no. 2: **Watershed protection: a statewide approach** (EPA841-R-95-004)*
- no. 3: **Monitoring consortiums: A cost-effective means to enhancing watershed data collection and analysis** (EPA841-R-97-006)*
- no. 4: **Land cover digital data directory for the United States** (EPA841-B-97-005)*
- no. 5: **Designing an information management system for watersheds** (EPA841-R-97-005)*
- no. 6: **Information management for the watershed approach in the Pacific Northwest** (EPA841-R-97-004)*
- no. 7: **Watershed Academy catalogue of watershed training opportunities** (EPA841-D-97-001)*

This document was prepared for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water under partial support from each of three EPA contracts, including Contract 68-C3-0303 with Tetra Tech, Inc., Contract 68-C3-0342 with The Cadmus Group, Inc., and Contract 68-C4-0034 with Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). Clayton Creager of Tetra Tech, Inc. and Nancy Winters of SAIC are the document's primary authors, and Douglas J. Norton and Greg Currey of the EPA Office of Water are the project managers. Partial funding provided by Molly Whitworth of the Office of Sustainable Ecosystems and Communities of EPA's Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation is gratefully acknowledged.

## **Notice**

This document has been subjected to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency review and has been approved for publication. Publication does not signify that the contents necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency or of any other organization represented in this document. Mention of trade names does not constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

## **This report should be cited as:**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 1997. Information Management for the Watershed Approach in the Pacific Northwest. EPA841-R-97-004. Office of Water (4503F), United States Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC.

## **To obtain a copy free of charge, contact:**

National Center for Environmental Publications and Information (NCEPI)  
Phone: (513) 489-8190  
Fax: (513) 489-8695

## **This EPA report may also be available on the Internet for browsing or download at:**

<http://www.epa.gov/OWOW/watershed/wacademy/its.html>